

Fund For The Improvement Of Postsecondary Education (CFDA No. 84.116)

I. Legislation

Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, Title X, Part A, Sections 1001-1004, 1011 and Title XI, Part B (20 U.S.C. 1135, 1135a-11 and 1137-1137a) (expires September 30, 1997) .

II. Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
1973	\$10,000,000	1988	\$13,117,000
1975	11,500,000	1989	13,310,000
1980	13,500,000	1990	13,183,000
1981	13,500,000	1991	16,103,000
1982	11,520,000	1992	16,463,000
1983	11,710,000	1993	28,220,000 ¹
1985	12,710,000	1994	18,808,000 ²
1986	12,163,000	1995	20,326,000 ³
1987	13,700,000	1996	15,000,000

III. Analysis of Program Performance

A. Goals and Objectives

The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) provides grants to support innovative projects that will encourage the reform and improvement of postsecondary education and student participation in community service projects.

Specific objectives are as follows:

- Increase participation and completion rates of students in postsecondary education;
- Enable advancements in institutional performance and the quality of teaching; and

¹This figures includes funds that were directed by Congress to be spent through programs authorized elsewhere in the HEA: \$3,472,000 for the Eisenhower Leadership Program (Title X, Part D); \$4,960,000 for Early Childhood Education and Violence Counseling (Title V, Part F, Subpart 5); and \$2,480,000 for Minority Teacher Recruitment (Title V, Part E, Subpart 2).

²This includes \$500,000 for the Student Financial Aid Database and Information Line; \$700,000 for a study of civilian aviation training; and \$1 million for demonstration grants for critical language and area studies.

³This includes funds that were directed by Congress to be spent through other programs: \$1,365,000 for Minority Faculty Recruitment and \$1 million for Critical Foreign Languages.

- Encourage international cooperation, student exchanges, and partnerships among higher education institutions and other organizations.

B. Strategies to Achieve the Goals

Services Supported

FIPSE grants are awarded through a competitive process. Applications are reviewed by FIPSE staff and external reviewers from the higher education community.

In FY 1996, FIPSE made awards under three programs, the main one being the Comprehensive Program. The other two were the Targeted Competition: Joint U.S.- E.U. Consortia for Cooperation in Higher Education and Vocational Training, and the Targeted Competition: Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education.

Annual invitational priorities for the Comprehensive Program are set by FIPSE with the advice of the FIPSE National Advisory Board. The FY 1996 award priorities for the Comprehensive Program were reforming the curriculum, improving the educational climate on campus, reducing racial tension, promoting international education, combining subject mastery with teaching techniques in teacher education, assessing of learning and financial reforms and their effects on quality and access, linking education and the economy, and promoting new applications of technology. Eligible entities and two- and four-year colleges and universities (accredited and nonaccredited), community organizations, libraries, museums, nonprofit trade and technical schools, unions, consortia, student groups, local government agencies, nonprofit corporations, and associations.

In FY 1996 the Comprehensive Program supported 208 grants on a wide range of issues including curriculum reform; access to retention in, and completion of postsecondary education; restructuring institutions; improvement of campus climate; faculty development; teacher training; graduate and professional education; international education; education and the workforce; and educational technology. Funding for the program was \$14,318,077.

In FY 1996 there were two targeted competitions. The first was the Joint U.S.- E.U. Consortia for Cooperation in Higher Education and Vocational Training, funded at \$389,220. Eight awards were made. The second was the Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education, funded at \$206,603. Nine awards were made.

Strategic Initiatives

To increase the effectiveness of FIPSE programs, the FIPSE Program Book and *Lessons Learned*, an annual publication on the most promising outcomes of FIPSE-funded projects, will be widely disseminated via the World Wide Web (along with all current publications and guidelines). Numerous hard copies of these publications have been printed and distributed.

To encourage the institutionalization of FIPSE programs, program staff scrutinize institutionalization strategies prior to award and during the initial years of the grant, and conduct workshops on institutionalization strategies during the project directors' meeting. FIPSE also shares innovative institutionalization strategies via its Web site.

To increase the leverage of grant funds and outside sources of support during or after FIPSE funding for a project ends, workshops on strategies are also offered during the annual project directors' meeting.

To improve service delivery and customer satisfaction with FIPSE programs, greater use will be made of e-mail and bulletin board discussions.

FIPSE will continue to provide full technical assistance to prospective grantees and feedback to all unsuccessful applicants.

C. Program Performance—Indicators of Impact and Effectiveness

Performance indicators are under development. Both of the targeted programs are now being evaluated by an outside contractor. See also Office-Wide Performance Indicators for the Office of Postsecondary Education displayed in the Overview (OPS) to the postsecondary education programs.

IV. Planned Studies

During FY 1997 FIPSE will develop plans for a program evaluation, which will occur during FYs 1997 and 1998. This evaluation will address evidence of FIPSE program accomplishments in the United States - European Union and North American exchange programs. The Disseminating Proven Reforms Program, which was funded in FY 1995, will also be evaluated to measure the diffusion of successful practices to other sites and the effectiveness of this specific model for program dissemination.

An evaluation of outcomes is required of all grantees as part of their progress reports and final reports. These evaluations are analyzed annually, and information on the most promising outcomes is included in a subsequent issue of a FIPSE report titled *Lessons Learned*.

V. Sources of Information

1. Program files.
2. Surveys of funded projects.
3. *Lessons Learned*: FIPSE prepares this annual publication, which draws on information from final reports of projects and from questionnaires of grantees. Volume I, which includes projects finished by 1988, was released in fall 1990; Volume II, which includes projects that finished between 1988 and 1991, was released in September 1993; Volume III, which includes projects finished between 1992 and 1994, was released in August 1996; Volume IV which includes projects that finished between 1994 and 1997 will be release in August 1998.
4. The FIPSE Web page: http://www.ed.gov/prog_info/FIPSE contains information on FIPSE competitions, technical assistance publications, and descriptions of all projects currently funded through FIPSE.

VI. Contacts for Further Information

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